

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2001 AUG -3 P 4: 29

BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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In re: ) PACA Docket No. D-01-0006  
4 Seasons International, Inc., )  
Respondent ) Decision Without Hearing  
 ) By Reason of Default

Preliminary Statement

This is a disciplinary proceeding under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 499a et seq.) hereinafter referred to as the "Act", instituted by a Complaint filed on January 9, 2001, by the Associate Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture. The Complaint alleges that during the period November 1998 through January 2000, Respondent purchased, received, and accepted, in interstate and foreign commerce, from 8 sellers, 97 lots of perishable agricultural commodities, but failed to make full payment promptly of the agreed purchase prices in the total amount of \$638,662.90.

A copy of the Complaint was served upon Respondent; Respondent did not answer the Complaint. The time for filing an answer having expired, and upon the motion of the Complainant for the issuance of a Default Order, the following Decision and Order is issued without further investigation or hearing pursuant to section 1.139 of the Rules of Practice (7 C.F.R. § 1.139).

### Findings of Fact

1. Respondent is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Texas. Its business addresses were 8609 NW Plaza Drive, Suite 209, Dallas, Texas 75225 and 2501 Military Highway, Suite D-15, McAllen, Texas 78502. Its mailing address is P.O. Box 12003, Dallas, Texas 75225.

2. At all times material herein, Respondent was licensed under the provisions of the PACA. Pursuant to the licensing provisions of the Act, license number 981395 was issued to Respondent on June 16, 1998. This license terminated on June 16, 1999, pursuant to Section 4(a) of the Act (7 U.S.C. § 499d(a)) when respondent failed to pay the required annual license fee. License number 991669 was issued to Respondent on August 16, 1999. This license terminated on August 16, 2000, when it was not renewed.

3. As more fully set forth in paragraph III of the Complaint, during the period November 1998 through January 2000, Respondent purchased, received, and accepted, in interstate and foreign commerce, from 8 sellers, 97 lots of fruits and vegetables, all being perishable agricultural commodities, and failed to make full payment promptly of the agreed purchase prices, in the total amount of \$638,662.90.

### Conclusions

Respondent's failure to make full payment promptly with respect to the 97 transactions set forth in Finding of Fact No. 3, above, constitutes willful, repeated and flagrant violations

of Section 2(4) of the Act (7 U.S.C. § 499b), for which the Order below is issued.

Order

A finding is made that Respondent has committed willful, flagrant and repeated violations of Section 2 of the Act (7 U.S.C. § 499b), and the facts and circumstances set forth above shall be published.

This order shall take effect on the 11th day after this Decision becomes final.

Pursuant to the Rules of Practice governing procedures under the Act, this Decision will become final without further proceedings 35 days after service hereof unless appealed to the Secretary by a party to the proceeding within 30 days after service as provided in sections 1.139 and 1.145 of the Rules of Practice (7 C.F.R. §§ 1.139 and 1.145).

Copies hereof shall be served upon parties.

Done at Washington, D.C.

this 3 day of August, 2001

Jill A. Clitz  
Administrative Law Judge